

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A protective sleeve for a bit holder on a cutting tool assembly comprising: a body element including a forward portion adjacent an intermediate portion and a split portion adjacent said intermediate portion, said body element adapted to be receivable in said bit holder.
2. (Original) The protective sleeve of claim 1 wherein said split portion extends for less than half the length of said body element.
3. (Original) The protective sleeve of claim 1 wherein said forward portion is a collar for protecting the bit holder from axial forces applied a said cutting tool bit.
4. (Original) The protective sleeve of claim 1 wherein said split portion and said intermediate portion are cylindrical.
5. (Original) The protective sleeve of claim 4 wherein said cylindrical intermediate portion and said cylindrical split portion have external surfaces of uniform diameter.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) A protective sleeve for a bit holder on a cutting tool assembly comprising:  
a body element including a forward portion adjacent an intermediate portion and a split portion adjacent said intermediate portion, said body element adapted to be receivable in said bit holder,  
wherein said split portion has a generally uniform outer diameter.

18. (New) A protective sleeve for a bit holder on a cutting tool assembly comprising:  
a body element including a forward portion adjacent an intermediate portion and a split portion adjacent said intermediate portion, said body element adapted to be receivable in said bit holder,  
wherein said intermediate portion has a generally uniform outer diameter.

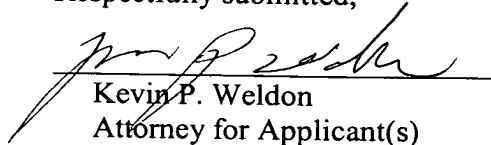
19. (New) A partially split protective sleeve for a bit holder on a cutting tool assembly comprising:  
a body element including a forward portion adjacent an intermediate portion and a split portion adjacent said intermediate portion, said body element adapted to be receivable in said bit holder,  
wherein said split portion and intermediate portion have a generally uniform outer diameter.

20. (New) The partially split protective sleeve according to claim 19, wherein said split portion extends for less than half the length of said body element.

21. (New) The partially split protective sleeve according to claim 20, wherein said forward portion is a collar for protecting the bit holder from axial forces applied to a cutting tool bit.

Appl. No. (to be assigned)  
Amdt. dated September 8, 2003  
Preliminary Amendment

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin P. Weldon", is written over a horizontal line.

Kevin P. Weldon  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 47,307  
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Kennametal Inc.  
P. O. Box 231  
Latrobe, PA 15650  
(724) 539-5485 Phone  
(724) 539-5903 Fax